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Message from the Mayor

As many of our readers know, our city went on a higher state of alert on August 1, after the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) raised the terror level to Code Orange (high risk of terrorist attacks) for the financial sectors of New York City, Washington, DC, and northern New Jersey. DHS cited "new and unusually specific information" that certain financial icons, such as the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) in the District, were potential terrorist targets.

The higher state of alert in the District involves increased restrictions in some areas. US Capitol Police have closed a major thoroughfare—First Street, NE—on Capitol Hill and set up numerous vehicle checkpoints. Working closely with security at the World Bank and the IMF, the Metropolitan Police Department has enhanced security around these facilities, paying particular attention to delivery trucks going to and passing by the buildings. You will see an increased police presence in the vicinity of the World Bank and the IMF—both of which are within blocks of the White House. Our Metro system has also stepped up patrols.

It is important to note that while we have increased security around certain buildings that have been apparently targeted by terrorists, we have not diminished patrols in our neighborhoods. The safety of District residents in and around their homes remains our number one priority.

As Mayor, I understand that here in the District of Columbia we are in a constant state of heightened awareness because we are the nation's capital. But one of the most important things for all of us to remember is that we can and must work as partners with the federal government on important matters such as street closures and checkpoints here in our city.

In fact, we've recently worked very well together. We orchestrated a successful opening of the national World War II Memorial. This was a massive security undertaking. We managed to balance the needs of an open city with the needs of a safe city. And, on short notice, we worked together to plan the funeral for President Ronald Reagan, mobilizing all of our resources very quickly.

Keeping Washington, DC, open and safe is a joint responsibility. It calls for a team effort. Our government offices, our Supreme Court, the Capitol Dome and the Library of Congress should not be imprisoned in a gated community. We cannot allow the symbols of American freedom and democracy to be transformed into fortresses of fear.

I recently re-read an essay by former Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, entitled "Principles of Liberty." In this poignant essay, Moynihan, always a cheerleader for maintaining an open and safe DC, wrote of the need to maintain balance when thinking about security. He talked about preserving the freedom of places like libraries and public squares.

"There are indeed buildings that need to be secured. And not a few," he wrote. "But there are places in the public square that do not need that. Might something go wrong? Yes. Nothing new. But the stability of the American National Government is not served by an intimidated citizenry."

We should keep his words in mind as we proceed with our homeland security efforts here in the nation's capital.



Office of Contracting and Procurement Hosts International Decision Makers

For a third year, the DC Office of Contracting and Procurement hosted government ministers, elected officials and senior private sector executives from Sub-Saharan Africa, India, Sri Lanka, and the Middle East. The visitors came to the District this month for an Institute for Public-Private Partnerships, Inc. (IP3) training course. IP3 is an international development organization based in the District that focuses on advancing public-private partnerships for improving public services.



The visitors met with the District's Chief Procurement Officer Jacques Abadie. Some of the topics Mr. Abadie explored were the District's procedures and regulations governing public-private partnerships, and the importance of transparency in the procurement process.

Mr. Abadie briefed the group on the partnership that exists in the procurement process, focusing on the roles and responsibilities of the agencies, the Office of Contracting and Procurement, the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, and the vendor community. Mr. Abadie demonstrated the newly installed Procurement Automated Support System (PASS) and the overall transformation of the "back room" operations of the District government.

David Young, program manager for IP3, reported that meetings with the Office of Contracting and Procurement have provided beneficial information for implementation in the visitors' home countries.

The importance of a smooth and transparent procurement process coupled with effective and efficient contract monitoring in the course of any project undertaken by a government cannot be overstated. Staff at the OCP look forward to the opportunity to host IP3 visitors again.

Community Profile Adebiyi Akinladenu

Ward 5 resident Adebiyi Akinladenu, 18, has been serving the community at Lamond-Riggs Public Library as a volunteer library assistant for over four years.

"My goal in life is to become a great figure through my service to the community," Adebiyi said. "Volunteering in the library has opened many opportunities for me to give to the community that has brought me up."

Adebiyi was 10 years old when he moved to the District of Columbia with his family from Nigeria. Adebiyi volunteered nearly 350 hours while a student at Benjamin Banneker Academic High School, where he had perfect attendance for four years and was the captain of the soccer team.



Besides volunteering several times a week at Lamond-Riggs Library, Adebiyi has also volunteered with his church choir and church soccer team. This summer he has been working with youth at a DC Scores summer soccer camp at LaSalle Elementary. He plans to attend Virginia Commonwealth University this fall.

Adebiyi is the May youth winner of the Mayor's Community Service Award, sponsored by Serve DC. If you would like to nominate a youth or adult for the monthly award, visit <http://serve.dc.gov> for nomination information or call (202) 727-9461.



District Launches Center for Innovation and Reform

During my weekly press briefing on August 11, I officially launched the Center for Innovation and Reform (CIR) to bring about significant and lasting reform in all District government agencies. Staff at the center will lead and support these reform efforts by collaborating with the public, subject matter experts, stakeholders, managers, and employees.

The goals of the Center are to strengthen management, increase productivity, decrease costs, reward creativity and innovation, and ultimately to increase resident satisfaction through more effective and efficient service delivery. Periodic reports will be provided to the Mayor and Council with the first report to be issued at the end of this year. The Center will maintain a website to keep the community abreast of the reform efforts, as well as to provide information for other municipalities considering similar initiatives.

District residents deserve the best city government in America. While we have improved customer service significantly over the past few years, we can and will do more. The Center will help us do so by improving processes, increasing efficiency and most importantly, increasing our responsiveness to citizens.

We all recognize a longstanding need for change in critical District agencies. A cornerstone of our efforts is promoting agency autonomy to recognize and fix existing problems. Once the problems are fixed, agencies will be held accountable for maintaining District services at a superior level.

The Center's director is Lisa Mallory-Hodge, formerly the chief of staff to the Clinton/Gore Administration's National Performance Review. The Center for Innovation and Reform is located within the Office of the City Administrator; John A. Wilson Building; 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 310; Washington, DC, 20004. The Center can be reached at (202) 727-6053.

Children's Literacy Project Launched

Last week, we launched "Read with Me," a project designed to engage District government employees in children's literacy programs. "Read with Me" is a component of The Early Chapters, a collaborative child literacy program designed to increase community involvement in local childhood literacy programs administered by Serve DC.

The Early Chapters seeks to increase volunteerism in support of the program's goal that children in the District of Columbia read at or above grade level by third grade. The program unites government, community and corporate partners in a call to service to increase early childhood literacy programs.

An important component of this program is expanding the number of caring adults involved in language and literacy skill-building with children.

In my 2004 State of the District Address, I challenged District residents to join me in an education renaissance that will galvanize government, community and civic resources to transform DC into a City of Learning. The cornerstone of this renaissance is literacy. The District has been in a literacy crisis. We must continue to mobilize our resources to help our children learn how to read.

So I am strongly encouraging District employees to get involved and make a difference in the life of a child.

The "Read with Me" project will match city employees as literacy mentors with preschool and early elementary age children. Staff at more than 15 District agencies have pledged their support for the "Read with Me" project, and more are expected to get involved in coming months.

DC government employees may register to volunteer through the "Read with Me" project on serve.dc.gov. There are several program partners to select from, with time commitments ranging from a few hours every month to a few hours a week. The deadline to register is September 17, 2004. For more information, call (202) 727-7925.

Information tables where people can learn more or register for the "Read with Me" project will be located at the Reeves Center from 11 am – 2 pm, August 24 – 26.



Mayor Meets with District Government Heroes

On August 10, I was proud to present certificates of appreciation to seven DC Fire and Emergency Medical Services (FEMS) employees who saved the lives of 3-year-old Lars Holt and 6 year-old Starkeme Holt during a house fire at 173 U Street, NE. These brave individuals are an inspiration to all of us who work in city government.

At 3:28 am on July 25, the Holt family was awakened by smoke alarms, alerting them to a fire in their home. Most family members escaped the house and then called 911 to report the fire and that two young boys were still trapped in the house.

When fire and medical units arrived moments after dispatch, fire was showing from an upstairs bedroom window.

Firefighter Marco Baylor (Engine 4) scaled a ladder to enter the building through an adjacent window. Once inside, he found Lars and Starkeme both overcome by smoke. Firefighter Baylor took Lars to the window and handed him out to Firefighter Donnie Lewis (Engine 26, detailed to Truck 4 that day) on the ladder. He was ready to take Lars to waiting medical care. Firefighter Lewis then climbed the ladder again and joined Firefighter Baylor inside the house to retrieve Starkeme. He, too, was rescued by Firefighters Baylor and Lewis and taken to medics outside.

On the ground, the boys received life-saving medical care from Paramedic Keisha Olsen (Medic 09), EMT Rudis Lara (Medic 09), Paramedic Rhonda Coles (Medic 11), EMT Jerrice Blunt (Medic 11), and EMS Supervisor Lt. Tony McMillan. The boys were transported to Children's National Medical Center and are alive and well today.

Too seldom are our city's workers—people on the frontlines and behind the scenes—recognized for their heroic efforts and noble deeds. Thanks go to all of the heroes of our city who risk their lives daily to help others.

District Activities



Mayor Williams is joined by Councilmember Vincent Orange and others at the opening of the newly renovated McKinley Technology High School in Northeast Washington.



On August 10, Mayor Williams presented awards to several DC Fire and EMS employees for their work in saving the lives of family members during a recent house fire.

Community News

- [Sen. Landrieu, Mayor Williams Kick Off 'City Build' Charter School Initiative](#)
- [Mayor to Address Executives at Minneapolis Conference](#)
- [DC Citizen Corps to Host Citizen Based Disaster Exercise](#)

Upcoming Events

[View All News Releases](#)

8/26 to 8/28 **Universal Boxing Summit**
9 am – 5 pm
RFK Memorial Stadium
2400 East Capitol Street, SE
(202) 543-6006

9/2 **Elderfest**
10 am – 3 pm
Freedom Plaza
Pennsylvania Avenue between 13th and 14th Streets, NW

10/16 **Race for Mental Health**
9 am (participants should arrive between 8 am and 8:45 am to get their race packets)
Rock Creek Park

